



Canadian Treatment Action Council

## ***Media Announcement***

### ***Barriers to HIV/AIDS Health Care in Canada***

*Press Conference*

*11:00 a.m.*

*Wednesday, August 16, 2006*

*Media Center, International AIDS Conference*

*Metro Toronto Convention Centre*

*Toronto, Canada*

Toronto – AIDS activists challenge the common myth that all Canadians have full and equal access to health care and medications. Leading activists will present their case at a press conference during the International AIDS Conference taking place in Toronto.

Speakers will describe the patchwork of private, federal, provincial and territorial drug benefit plans that result in unequal access to medications across Canada. They will also describe the barriers to health care for some of Canada's populations most vulnerable to HIV, including Aboriginal people and people from countries where HIV is endemic.

Speakers will include:

**Louise Binder**, Chair of the Canadian Treatment Action Council, Vice-Chair of Voices of Positive Women, and Co-Chair on the Canadian government's Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS.

**Jean-Pierre Bélisle**, Secretary of the Canadian Treatment Action Council and a leading AIDS activist from Montreal.

**Esther Tharao**, Health Promoter at Women's Health in Women's Hands and co-chair of The African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario.

**Randy Jackson**, Director of National Research and Programs at the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network.

The Canadian Treatment Action Council (CTAC) is a national organization serving the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. CTAC promotes informed public policy and public education, and promotes awareness on issues that impact on access to treatment and health care for people living with HIV/AIDS.

*For more information contact:*

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